

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Cindy Mason-Morris



Town Clerk
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FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at the Wellington Civic Offices on Tuesday 13th November 2018 commencing at 6:00pm.

Present:

Cllr C. Mason-Morris – Mayor	Cllr P. Fairclough	Cllr J. Gorse
Cllr A. Lowe – Deputy Mayor	Cllr J. Alvey	Cllr S. Fikeis
Cllr L. Carter	Cllr F. Burns	Cllr G. Cook
Cllr A. McClements	Cllr P. McCarthy	Cllr G. Luter
Cllr S. deLauney	Cllrs Tomlinson	

In attendance: Karen Roper, Town Clerk, 12 members of the public to receive grants.

72/18 Welcome - The Mayor warmly welcomed everyone to the informal get together with the grant funding recipients. Light refreshments were served from **6.00pm** and the grants presentations took place from 6.30pm. Attendees were invited to inform members of their work and how their award will be of benefit to their organisation and the people of Wellington.

Shropshire Cancer Support Group Prostrate Cancer – The Mayor called on Cllr Alvey to present the certificate to the representative who said he aimed to bring services to Wellington.

6th Wellington Brownies – The Mayor called on Cllr Fairclough to make the presentation which would be used to fund a programme to encourage leadership for girls.

Wellington Methodist Church Art Group – The Mayor called on Cllr Fikeis to present the certificate to the representative who explained that there were now 3 Art Groups involving 70 people . The group would use the money towards trips to exhibitions.

Telford Gateway Group – The Mayor called on Cllr Cook to present the certificate to the group who would put the money towards a Christmas meal for disadvantaged people.

Shropshire Talking Newsletter – The Mayor called on Cllr Luter to present the award to the group. They had 170 listeners and would purchase more units and memory sticks.

STABLE (Supporting Those Affected by Lifelong Epilepsy) UK - The Mayor called on Cllr Carter to present the award which would be used for starting a support group for individuals who are often isolated and living with the disease.

Shawburch Carers Well-Being Group - The Mayor called on Cllr Gorse to present the certificate to the group who aimed to support unpaid family carers.

Wellington Celebrates Telford 50 – The Mayor called on Cllr Burns to present the certificate to the People Of Wellington organisation to put towards their events that were taking place in Wellington to which all members were invited.

Telford & Wrekin Arthritis Support Group – were unable to attend and the Mayor had agreed previously to attend their January meeting to present the cheque.

Joining Members at the meeting starting at 7.00pm; Reverend David Sims, John Campion, Police and Crime Commissioner, Sue Farrell, Staff Officer, and Police Inspector Gary Wade and Alex Moore from the press.

73/18 7.05pm – Prayers – The Mayor called for Reverend Sims to lead prayers.

74/18 Mayor’s Welcome – The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting including guests

John Campion, Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Sue Farrell, Staff Officer, and Police Inspector, Gary Wade.

Questions from the Town Council had been forwarded to the Commissioner and he Responded making the following comments:

- a) **Smart Water Grant Scheme**, 25% of the cost of the kit can be reclaimed through an application to the PCC
- b) **Road Safety Grant** - of £500k available across the West Mercia area on road safety schemes
- c) **Support for 100 New Officers** – members were assured that this would not cause a problem to existing police services to train and support them to achieve the right standards.
- d) **Divorcing from Warwickshire** – Mr Campion explained there was currently no mechanism for how resources are spent between the two areas and he felt that Shropshire had lost out to Warwickshire and was subsidising their services. He used the example of sending armed response units to resolve their issues and felt he would be better able to retain the benefits in Shropshire.
- e) **The Athena System** - was reported as the predominant system being used by 2/3rds of the County Forces’. It was acknowledged there had been problems but the situation was improving.
- f) **Fire Service Merger** – Mr Campion said that money destined for the Fire Service could not then be spent on Policing. There were savings to be made through a reduction in the numbers of high ranking Fire Officers and back office services such as HR. There would be redundancies over time. The case was submitted as he felt the Fire Service was not sustainable to remain as it is and efficiency savings could be spent on frontline officers.
- g) **Parking** – Members referred to the decriminalisation of parking being considered by the Borough and were assured that the PCC was giving £200k towards the costs of implementation, which could mean that Wellington could have its own enforcement officer.
- h) **ICM** –Cllr Burns said he was part of the ICM team and he hoped that the monthly meetings would continue with the same personnel to ensure consistency. Mr Campion said he was very supportive of what works for Wellington and he hoped it would continue and expand into other areas.

- i) **101** – Members said they had spent 10 years telling people to ring this number for a response but his seems to be largely unresponsive. The PCC said the response rates were lower than the 999 emergency calls but now 80% of calls are responded to within 10 seconds. Cllr Tomlinson said she was pleased the situation had improved and hoped it would continue. The PCC said the 101 calls were never disconnected and acknowledged that sometimes people had to wait to get an answer.
- j) **The Political Neutrality of Police Officers** - The PCC said he did not worry too much about this issue as he expected Officers to give reports to communities but there is no intent to favour one party or another.
- k) **Police Station** – Cllr McCarthy said that people could not contact the Police easily as the local Police Station reception is now de-staffed. The PCC said it was unlikely that people would be employed to work on the reception of the Police Station going forward but he was confident that Officers do make themselves available to the public.
- l) **Top Slicing** – The PCC said that 60% of its budget for policing comes from Government and 40% from Council Tax precept. Council Tax funds things like the Child Sexual Exploitation investigations and the force applies for grant funding to help support other work.
- m) **Contact details** - Inspector Wade said he would circulate contact details for Police Staff, including posters to be distributed to public places such as Doctors Surgeries. He also suggested ¼ ly meetings with the Council to discuss problems and progress.

7:50pm John Campion Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Sue Farrell, Staff Officer, and Police Inspector Gary Wade were thanked by the Mayor and left the meeting .

75/18 Apologies – Were received from Cllr M. Hosken, annual leave, Cllr P. Morris-Jones, Cllr L. Jinks for family matters, Cllr J. Harris for work commitments, Cllr C. Brittain for Illness, Cllr S. Hall other commitments and Cllr D Roberts.

76/18 Declarations of Interest – None were forwarded at this point in the meeting

77/18 Mayors Report – Cllr Mason Morris said there was a buzz around town, the Festival had been a huge success, and Remembrance Sunday had attracted a record number of people estimated as between 1,500-2,000. The ‘Wellington Remembers’ group had created an excellent exhibition in the Gratitude café and populated information boards depicting personal information relating soldiers from Wellington who served in the war. These events had brought many people to Wellington some from outside the County. It was proposed by Cllr McClements and agreed by members to send a letter of thanks to Mary Rogers, Wellington Remembers. The Mayor said several new market stalls had opened and the Saturday Vegan Fare was sold out so it was all feeling very positive presently. She had attended a range of events during the last month including:

Thursday 18th October 2018	MacMillan Coffee Morning - King Street Wellington
Friday 19th October 2018	MacMillan Coffee Morning - Arlston Community Ctr
Tuesday 23rd October 2018	Wellington Townswomen Guild – Bucktree Hotel
Friday 26th October 2018	Photo-Op Bonfire Night- Wellington Cricket Club
Tuesday 30th October 2018	Open Market Stall - Prem Perfection - Market
Tuesday 30th October 2018	TCAT Café Opening – Strickland House
Saturday 3rd November 2018	Wellington Bonfire – Wellington Cricket Club
Monday 5th November 2018	Present Awards- Shortwood School
Monday 5th November 2018	Present Awards – TPS

Thursday 8th November 2018	Christmas Fundraiser – Yutopia Spa Whitehouse Hotel
Friday 9th November 2018	St Peters & Ercall Wood Xmas Fundraiser -Ercall school
Saturday 10th November 2018	Vegan Fair – Wellington Market
Sunday 11th November 2018	Remembrance Day Parade & Service - Wellington

Ercall Wood
Wellington M
Wellington

78/18 To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9th October 2018 -

It was proposed by Cllr Alvey, seconded by Cllr Cook and RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th October 2018, be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

79/18 To receive and approve the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 24th October 2018 - It was proposed by Cllr Gorse, seconded by Cllr Alvey and RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th October 2018, be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

80/18 Matters arising from those Minutes: -

- **GDPR** – Members proposed GDPR training for 7.15pm on Wednesday 12th December. The Clerk would find out if this date was convenient to the trainer.
- **PRH letter to the Health Secretary and MP's** – Cllr Gorse asked if there had been a response and the Clerk confirmed there had not. Members were most unhappy and instructed the Clerk to write again enclosing a copy of the letter and expressing their disappointment.
- **DBS Checks** – Cllr Gorse asked about the progress with the DBS checks the Clerk said she had not had time to take this further.

81/18 To receive the minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider and deal with the recommendations therein.

A) **Policy & Resources Committee 06.11.18** - Cllr deLauney presented the minutes for 6th November 2018 and made the following comments:

- **Bowring Cafe** – The Chairman reported the Café now has new tenants who are due to open on 23rd November. There was a discussion about the lease and terms of trading and it was RESOLVED that members could make an appointment to view the document in the Town Clerk's office.
- **Budget** – Cllr deLauney said there would be a special meeting of P&R prior to the scheduled meeting on 8th January to consider the budget in detail. The Clerk was asked to circulate the draft budget so members could discuss it.
- **Signage** – This issue had been referred to P&L.
- **Street Cleaning and Environmental Issues** – Cllr deLauney explained to members about the cleaning zones proposed by the Borough and the new service offer with a company called Idverde. Cllr McCarthy commented that the cleansing regime should be about need not zones.
- **Little Apley Pool** - It was agreed that this was not part of the Dohill Nature reserve but the Friends of Dohill group said they would help with creating paths suitable for wheelchair and pushchair users. It was RESOLVED that The Town Council would assist with the project.
- **Princess Royal Hospital** - The Chairman reported that the Council have been approached to assist in the refurbishment of accommodation for Staff at the Princess Royal Hospital. P&R members agreed to purchase beds up to the value of £4,800. Cllr McCarthy said this was double taxation and a gesture for political gain. He felt that this situation was really about the incompetence of the Management of the Trust who had already been given a budget to achieve this.
Cllr Carter said there was no budget and the hospital cannot even afford to maintain the hospital roof and equipment. He failed to see why we were having the debate when

other local Councils had agreed to help. Cllr Carter asked for a named recorded vote and seconded by Cllr McClements. Cllr deLauney proposed to accept the recommendation from P&R to purchase beds for the Princess Royal's Staff Accommodation and was seconded by Cllr Burns. The Vote was taken resulting in Cllr McCarthy voting against and Cllrs. Mason-Morris, Fairclough, Gorse, Lowe, Alvey, Fikeis, Cook, Luter, Tomlinson, Burns, Carter, McClements and deLauney voting for the proposal. It was therefore RESOLVED to purchase beds up to the value of £4,800 to assist the Princess Royal Hospital.

- **Arleston Community Centre** – Cllr McClements said the Town Council had received full details of the finances of the Arleston Community Centre who have applied for financial help. It was RESOLVED that the issue will be brought to the January P&R for consideration.
- B) **Planning 10.10.18** – Cllr Alvey presented the minutes and had no further comments.
Planning 01.11.18 – Cllr Alvey presented the minutes and said that Ref:91/18 0531 was unable to be discussed because the planning portal was unavailable.
- C) **Promotions and Liaison Committee 07.11.18** – Cllr Carter presented the draft Minutes and made the following comments;
- The idea of doing more for the over 60's was still being scoped. Cllr Tomlinson commented on the task of cooking for large numbers.
 - Wellington Festival was a fantastic success.
 - The Orbit cinema project was progressing well.
 - The new digital sign is in place.
 - Remembrance Sunday was an outstanding success.
 - New private businesses were beginning to emerge.
- D) **Conservation Working Group 07.11.18** – Cllr Tomlinson presented the tabled minutes of the meeting reporting activity by the Friends Group relating to the Management Plan. She referred to the children's stone painting activities which had been mounted onto a board. Spiked railings had been ground down for health and safety reasons. She said the area opposite the Charlton School will need clearing and would require most of the budget to do so.

82/18 The date of the next Full Council Meeting – was agreed as 11th December 2018, commencing at 7:05pm.

Chairman.....13th November 2018